

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05804 061505 Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5804

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MOPS PINR VC

SUBJECT: VIET CONG INTENTIONS FOR VC SOC TRANG PROVINCE

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO BEING REPEATED
QUOTE

CAN THO 0131

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, PINR, VC

SUBJECT: VIET CONG INTENTIONS FOR VC SOC TRANG PROVINCE

1. SUMMARY: FSO PETER TOMSEN HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF TWO DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THE VIET CONG IN VC SOC TRANG PROVINCE. THE DOCUMENTS ARE SPECIFIC VC OPERATIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PLANS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1973 AND PROBABLY ARE DESIGNED TO CARRY OUT POLICY GUIDELINES SET OUT IN COSVN RESOLUTION #2. ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS PRESENTS A TIMETABLE AND DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TAKEOVER OF THANH TRI AND NGA NAM DISTRICTS IN BA SUYEN PROVINCE. THE OTHER IS A DETAILED MILITARY REORGANIZATION AND RECRUITMENT PLAN FOR VC SOC TRANG PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

2. RVNAF RECENTLY CAPTURED TWO IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS, PROBABLY DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT COSVN RESOLUTION #2, IN VC SOC TRANG PROVINCE. THEY INDICATE THAT VIET CONG INTENTIONS DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1973 EMPHASIZE THE CONSOLIDATION AND RESTRUCTURING OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY RESOURCES. PRIMARY ATTENTION IN THE NEW STRATEGY IS DEVOTED TO SOLIDIFYING VC

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 05804 061505 Z

MILITARY CONTROL IN AREAS WHERE VC INFLUENCE PREDOMINATES. TOP PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO PURGING VC AREAS OF GVN MILITARY PRESENCE, REPRESENTED BY RF/ PF OUTPOSTS AND PSDF. FOLLOWING THIS FIRST STEP, THE VC ARE TO REPOPULATE, DEVELOP, AND DEFEND THESE COMPLETELY LIBERATED ISLANDS THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMBAT HAMLETS AND VILLAGES. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE AREA OF CONTROL IS TO BE PROGRESSIVELY WIDENED BY USING BASICALLY THE SAME METHODS.

3. THE RESTRUCTURING AND UPGRADING OF VC MILITARY AND POLITICAL ASSETS DURING THE SIX MONTHS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE NEW STRATEGY. POLITICAL FRONT ORGANIZATIONS AND BURGEINING PARTY MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING LEGAL AS WELL AS CLANDESTINE CADRE, ARE TO STIMULATE POPULAR RESENTMENT AGAINST THE " PUPPET" GVN. EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE PARTY ORGANIZATION AT THE HAMLET LEVEL. AMBITIOUS QUOTAS SPECIFYING NUMBERS FOR NEW PARTY RECRUITS AND CELLS ARE SET FOR EVERY HAMLET.

4. THE DOCUMENTS SET IMPOSSIBLE RECRUITMENT QUOTAS. ALL MILITARY UNITS ARE TO BE BROUGHT UP TO TO& E STRENGTH. LOCAL VC AUTHORITIES WILL CREATE TWO NEW BATTALIONS AND A NUMBER OF LOCAL FORCE COMPANIES.

AS WITH THE POLITICAL SIDE, THE MAIN EMPHASIS IS ON CONSOLIDATION AND PREPARATION. THE MILITANT TONE AND SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OF BOTH DOCUMENTS INDICATE THAT ARMED FORCE, THOUGH RELATIVELY REDUCED IN EMPHASIS, REMAINS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE VCI OVER- ALL STRATEGY.

5. NOTABLY ABSENT IN BOTH DOCUMENTS ARE REFERENCES TO THE CEASE-FIRE MACHINERY, RECONCILIATION WITH THE GVN, AND ELECTIONS. THE PLANS FREQUENTLY EMPHASIZE RECONCILIATION WITH NON- GVN ELEMENTS IN THE SOUTH.

6. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN CONCRETE INDICATIONS SINCE THE CEASEFIRE THAT VC STRATEGY IN VC SOC TRANG PRTOVINCE IS FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN IN THE THESE DOCUMENTS. SINCE JANUARY 27 AT LEAST EIGHT GVN OUTPOSTS IN OR NEAR AREAS UNDER VC INFLUENCE HAVE FALLEN. MOST WERE " INSIDE" JOBS. PROGRAMS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY NEAR VC AREAS TO ENTICE REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR FARMS. THERE ARE ALSO NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT THE PARTY INFRASTRUCTURE IS BEING JUGGLED AND THAT DISTRICT AND VILLAGE CADRE ARE BEING ASSIGNED TO ORGANIZATIONAL JOBS IN HAMLETS.

7. HOWEVER, BOTH THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROGRAMS AND GOALS ESTABLISHED IN THE DOCUMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH RECRUITMENT, ARE GROSSLY UNREALISTIC. ALTHOUGH THE VC HAVE SCORED SOME MILITARY SUCCESSES NEAR SEVERAL OF THEIR MINI- BASES, GVN SET- BACKS ARE UNLIKELY TO AFFECT THE PRESENT BALANCE OF POWER IN THE PROVINCE. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE VC IN SOC TRANG PROVINCE WILL MAKE MUCH MORE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 05804 061505 Z

EVEN THE FIRST STAGE OF THEIR PROGRAM.

8. AN AIRGRAM WITH FURTHER ANALYSIS AND COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS
FOLLOWS. BARNES UNQUOTE
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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